

Mr. Wiltshire is currently a Government Relations Manager for the KeySpan Corporation. At KeySpan, he provides counsel to the Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Director of Government Relations on the relevant implications of government policy. Prior to joining KeySpan, he served as a Government Relations Manager for Consolidated Edison. Mr. Wiltshire's administrative experience also includes his previous service as President and Chief Operating Officer at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. Through his efforts, the Navy Yard has become the most successful industrial park and economic development project in the nation.

Mr. Wiltshire is certainly a model for the youth in our community. His drive to improve the standard of living and to clear a path for our youth to enter the economic mainstream is evident in all of his endeavors. Mr. Wiltshire has even served as a member of the New York City Police Department, where he became involved in reaching out to young adults at risk. He also restructured the Citywide Model Cities Program and devoted two years to reforming the New York City Juvenile Justice System's approach to youth crime and incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and service of Mr. Albert C. Wiltshire.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VARIETY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens and its honoree, Chuck Viane, on the evening of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration. The Boys and Girls Club is a wonderful nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of services to New York City children. Our community's young people are truly fortunate to have such an effective and necessary resource at their disposal.

The Variety Boys Club of Queens was established five decades ago in response to the growing problem of youth gangs in the borough. The organization opened May 1, 1955 and registered 3,000 members that first day. Boys came from all parts of Queens to watch movies, play games and participate in sports. In 1981, the club's board of directors first extended services to girls and by 1985, all club programs were available to the young women of Queens.

Today, the club provides youths aged 6 to 17 with a wide range of educational and recreational activities. The club makes every effort to ensure that these children do not "fall through the cracks," giving them a place to do their homework, providing learning assistance, promoting exercise programs, and giving them a safe place to socialize with other children their own age. In so doing, the Club offers young New Yorkers a constructive alternative to truancy, violence, street gangs, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy. Variety Boys and Girls Club members can swim in an Olympic-

size indoor swimming pool, participate in a drama group or a cheerleading team, or use the club's Calder Knowledge Lab to do homework, use computers and receive tutoring. The club also provides flute, guitar, and karate lessons, along with many other stimulating and constructive programs. In short, the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens gives local kids an opportunity to succeed in whatever field inspires them.

The foregoing would not have been possible without the club's many supporters, including tonight's honoree, Chuck Viane. Mr. Viane, President of Buena Vista Pictures Distribution, is the recipient of the club's 2005 Humanitarian Award for his dedication to public service. Mr. Viane has worked closely with the organization and has coordinated such activities as a Variety Club program to purchase two neonatal ventilators for St. Francis Hospital in Los Angeles. Mr. Viane's generosity has helped the club become an even stronger force in the community, a fact for which I am most grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the staff, volunteers and friends of the Variety Boys and Girls Club.

HONORING FLINT MASONIC LODGE NO. 23, F&AM

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as my hometown of Flint, Michigan celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I rise before you today to honor an organization that is also celebrating its sesquicentennial. On June 18, Flint residents are invited to join Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, Free & Accepted Masons will invite the public to join in their commemoration festivities, which include a parade, reception, and banquet.

Based in the Flint Masonic Temple on South Saginaw Street in downtown Flint, Flint Masonic Lodge 23 was chartered on January 11, 1855, becoming another branch of America's oldest and largest fraternal organization. The new members, coming from all walks of life, now counted emperors, kings, and even many of our Founding Fathers as brethren.

Some of Flint's most prominent citizens have been or currently are members of the Masonic fraternity. Several of the city's Mayors, including Charles Stewart Mott, Colonel James Fenton, Harry Cull, George Poulous, James Rutherford, and current Mayor Don Williamson, can be counted among their ranks. Many city streets were named in honor of business and civic leaders who also served as Masons. Their legacy has become an integral part of Flint's history, and its heritage.

Flint Masons have been selflessly committed to improving the community and enhancing human dignity. They are often found at the forefront of charitable drives to benefit the less fortunate, the disabled, and both our younger and older citizens. Their efforts have benefited thousands, and have indeed made the Greater Flint area a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating the members, past and present, of Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, F&AM, on their celebration of a true milestone, and wish the Lodge continued success and growth for the next 150 years and beyond.

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RECOGNIZING OPERATION SLUGGER

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fantastic program aimed at boosting the morale of our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Slugger is a partnership between the Association for the U.S. Army, AUSA, DHL Express, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, focused on providing sporting equipment for recreational activities for our soldiers in the field. This partnership is a response to the numerous requests from U.S. soldiers asking for sports equipment for use during their leisure time.

I am proud to represent Fort Knox, which is one of the many locations across the country, including VFW posts and private businesses, where new and gently used equipment is being collected to make up sports kits. These kits will consist of baseball bats and balls, softball and baseball gloves, hats, footballs, basketballs, rugby balls, and soccer balls. The donated goods, which are expected to exceed 20 tons, will be transported by DHL to Louisville Slugger Field and on to the U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan.

As the men and women of our military put their lives on the line for us, I want to thank these organizations for giving something back to the troops. Please join me in thanking AUSA, DHL, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, the VFW, and all of the people who have participated for their contributions to Operation Slugger.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program.

The 7(a) loan program is essential for our nation's small business owners. It provides accessible and affordable financing that enables such businesses to grow, which in turn leads to the creation of jobs so desperately needed in the current economy. In the past 10 years, the SBA has approved more than 424,000 loans totaling over \$90 billion. These loans